

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Lyons

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP21,076 P3**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 22, 2010**

(54) **RED MAPLE TREE NAMED ‘KATIE COLE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Acer rubrum*
Varietal Denomination: **Katie Cole**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/284,183**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 19, 2008**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2010/0077521 P1 Mar. 25, 2010

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./224**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **Plt./224**
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A red maple tree named ‘Katie Cole’, a medium tree distin-
guished by the prolonged red coloration of its new leaf
growth.

2 Drawing Sheets

1

Latin name of the genus and species including the variety
denomination of the plant claimed: The plant claimed relates
to a new and distinct variety of red maple, botanically known
as *Acer rubrum*, and known by the cultivar name Katie Cole.

This new cultivar was found mixed with a quantity of trees
of *Acer rubrum* ‘Franksred’ grown at Sunleaf Nursery in
Madison, Ohio. This new cultivar was noted as distinctive
because of the striking red leaves on the expanding shoots that
caused it to stand out from the others.

The Katie Cole variety is the only variant of red maple I am
aware of that displays the prolonged red coloration of its new
leaf growth. Leaves of red maple are often red as they emerge
from the bud, but this color rapidly changes to the normal
green as the leaves expand. The leaves of the Katie Cole
variety maintain a saturated red color from when they emerge
until they are fully expanded. This character provides an
additional period of high ornamental interest for this variety,
in addition to the red fall leaf coloration period that is nor-
mally a feature of this species.

The original Katie Cole cultivar, which is 8 years old, is
approximately 14 feet tall, and has a single main trunk and
pyramidal crown of ascending branches.

The Katie Cole cultivar has been asexually reproduced at
Sunleaf Nursery in Madison, Ohio, by means of grafting and
budding, and plants propagated by this method have dis-
played the same unique characteristics of the original plant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a colored photograph illustrating the overall
appearance of the cultivar Katie Cole in the summer.

FIG. 2 is a colored photograph illustrating the prolonged
red coloration of the new leaf growth of Katie Cole in the
summer.

All of the drawing figures show the colors as truly as is
reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this
type.

The following is a detailed description of my new cultivar,
Katie Cole. In all cases, where color is different from the
typical and is considered a distinguishing feature of this vari-
ety, reference is made to specific colors on The R.H.S. Colour
Chart (1986 ed.) published by The Royal Horticultural Soci-

2

ety, London, England. Here follows a detailed description of
the characteristics of this cultivar, as displayed by specimens
grown at Madison, Lake County, Ohio. Coloration of leaves
and bark may be variable, due to conditions of nutrition,
stress, age of plant, location on plant and the presence/ab-
sence of sun/shade. Plant part comparisons have been made
using samples taken from a mature plant where growth rates
and characteristics are considered typical.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Parentage: Unknown — discovered in a group of nursery
trees of *Acer rubrum* ‘Franksred’.

Hardiness: Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zone 4b (−25° F. mini-
mum).

Growth rate: Moderate. The original specimen at 8 years old
in Madison, Ohio was approximately 14 feet tall. The
increase in length of the stems of the original specimen
over the past growing season at 9 years old in Madison,
Ohio averaged 21 inches (53 cm). Young nursery trees
under irrigation produced annual shoot growth at 24 to 30
inches (61 to 76 cm.).

Habit: Deciduous tree with single main trunk and pyramidal
crown of ascending branches. The angles of the primary
branches range from 45° to 60° from the vertical main stem.

Bark: The bark on the main stem and branches in their third
year or older is smooth and light gray (Black Group 202 D).

Leaves: Oppositely arranged, deciduous, simple palmately
3-lobed. The margins of the leaves are doubly serrate. Leaf
blade 7.15–13 cm. in length, 5–11 cm. across, petioles
2.5–5 cm. in length. Color of expanding leaves Red-Purple
Group 59A becoming Greyed-Purple Group 183A at near
full expansion. Color of the upper (adaxial) surface of
mature leaves Green Group 137A, lower (abaxial) surface
Greyed-Green Group 191C. At full leaf expansion, the
petiole is colored Red Group 46A along its entire length
and on all sides. This color extends into and persists in the
primary veins on the upper (adaxial) surface of the leaves
and primary and secondary veins on the underside (abaxial
surface) of the leaves. In fall, color of the upper leaf surface
becomes Greyed-Purple Group 187A at peak coloration.

Twigs: Mature first year twigs are slender, smooth, reddish (Greyed-Purple Group 182A) and bear numerous (152 per 2 inch (5 cm.) length of stem) lenticels. The lenticels are white (White Group 155D) to buff (Greyed-Orange Group 167D) in color, irregular orbicular or oval to elliptical in shape, and 0.5 to 2.5 mm in length. Mature second year stems are gray (between Black Group 202C and 202D) and the lenticels, being more or less the same color, are obscured.

Flowers: Flowers are borne in axillary umbels. Flowers are stalked, each flower with 5 petals and 5–8 exserted sta-

mens. The open flowers are bright red (Red Group 45B. To date, female flowers have not been produced.

Seeds: Seeds are not produced. This is to be expected, as the only flowers so far produced have been male.

I claim:

1. A red maple tree named ‘Katie Cole’, as described and illustrated, a medium tree distinguished by the prolonged red coloration of its new leaf growth.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2